precaution, the bank has advised its card holders visiting South East Asian countries to surrender their cards on their return and obtain fresh cards with new numbers. SBI Cards & Payment Services Pvt. Ltd.—a Subsidiary of SBI—has reported ten instances of use of counterfeit credit cards involving Rs. 4.88 lakh during the period from April 2002 to end-June 2003. Out of this, Rs. 0.72 lakh has been recovered and the balance amount of Rs. 4.16 lakh has been treated as loss.

(c) RBI have reported that banks have been advised to set up internal control systems to combat frauds like fraud at application stage, misuse of lost/stolen cards and cards not received by genuine applicants, counterfeit/altered cards, etc. Fraud prevention committees/task forces are in existence which take proactive fraud control and enforcement measures. Banks are advised to actively participate in such fraud prevention committees/task forces.

Failure of banks to recover loans

905. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that despite sweeping powers given by the Securitisation Bill to recover bad debts, banks have failed to recover them;

(b) if so, whether Government have made any investigation in this regard; and

(c) the efforts Government propose to make to accelerate the process recovery of loans?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) No, Sir. Under the Securitisation & Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002,27 public sector banks have issued 32043 notices involving an amount of Rs. 11447.13 crores as on 31st May, 2003 and have recovered an amount of Rs. 435.68 crores from 8676 cases. The Act has created a favourable climate for recovery and induced settlement in several cases. It is too early to assess the progress at this stage.

(b) No investigation appears to be necessary.

(c) Government of India and Reserve Bank of India have advised the banks and financial institutions to take several steps for recovery of dues such as evolving and implementation of recovery policy by banks, filing of suits with civil courts, filing cases with Debt Recovery Tribunals (DRTs), compromise settlement through Settlement Advisory Committees, Lok Adalats and monitoring and follow up of NPAs at various levels. Credit Information Bureau has also been set up to desseminate information on borrowers to the banks. Corporate Debt Restructuring (CDR) scheme has been put place to provide a transparent mechanism for restructuring of corporate debts of viable entities facing problems due to internal and external factors. RBI has issued revised guidelines for compromise settlement of chronic NPAs of Public Sector Banks on 29th January, 2003. These guidelines will cover all NPAs in all sectors irrespective of the nature of business, which have become doubtful or loss as on 31st March, 2000 with outstanding balance of Rs. 10.00 crore and below.

Repurchase cheques for US-64 'A'

906. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that efficiency in the UTI remains tardy so far as issuing of repurchase cheques for US-64 'A' category units is concerned;

(b) whether repurchase was due on 1st May, 2003 for which applications were received by 10th April, 2003;

(c) if so, the number of applications received under category 'A';

(d) the number of cases where cheques were delayed for one week, two weeks, four weeks and more than four weeks; and

(e) the action proposed to be taken against those who caused delay and loss of interest to unit holders?

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) As per information provided by Administrator of the Specified Undertaking of UTI (SUUTI), repurchase cheques of US-64 'A' category, other than objection cases, were issued over a period of 5 weeks commencing from 30th April, 2003.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) 7.02 lakhs.